

## **Eulogy for Julie Ann Kiley**

There is an arc to one's life that includes events, places and the connections we make with other people. What supports a person's life are the values and beliefs they hold dear.

Julie lived her life focusing on the goodness in others, remembering kindnesses extended to her, and discounting what was unkind or unfair in her life. She had an exceptional memory for events and places, but what was even more exceptional is how she could reconnect emotionally.

Faith, family and purpose were threaded throughout Julie's life.

Faith was a given in her life. Like her parents, she was a regular church goer here at St. Anthony and actively supported the church. She taught Sunday School for many years to share what she had learned from the Gospels and prepare children for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Family was a keystone of Julie's life. She was devoted to her parents. John and Vivian Kiley had tried for ten years to have a child and Julie was the answer to their prayers. They were a family that traveled together, loved reading and the arts, and went often to plays and performances. Following her father's death in 1986, Julie and her mom continued to traveling extensively together. They were committed to seeing the world, meeting new people and making new friends. They loved their romance novels and continued going to plays. It was a joy to sit next to Julie at a play. She would become transfixed and immersed in the moment as she connected to the story unfolding onstage.

Over the years, Julie's relationship changed as she became more and more the caretaker of her mom. When Aunt Viv needed to go to a nursing home, Julie made her mother her top priority. She visited with her every day. To be sure her mother was being watched while she was teaching, she made arrangements for a caregiver to sit with her mom over and above the facility's staff. Julie set a high bar in how she cared for her mom.

While Julie was an only child, she was surrounded by a lot of family throughout her life. She wanted to know the history of her family. Genealogy became a passion for her. She researched generations of Kileys and Nolans on her father's side and Haislips and Sullivans on her mother's. She reached out to start anew family connections that may have gone by the wayside.

Julie never had to look far for her first cousins, though. There was Megan, Frances, Noel and Clare, daughters of her Ed and Mildred Kiley. There was Kathryn, Chris, Ell, John, Mary Alice, Carl and Stuart, the children of Mary and Ell Jennison. Throughout her life, Julie shared a lot of family experiences with all of these cousins. We rejoiced and grieved together. There were circumstances that made her relationships with her Jennison cousins especially close. Back in 1955, Julie's father informed his baby sister, Mary, that he had found the perfect house for her growing family. And, guess what? It was just four doors down from his new house in Dowden Terrace. There never was a time when we were not a presence in each other's lives.

Julie especially loved having male cousins; she fondly called them “the boys.” She knew she could call on John any time of the day or night and he would get to her. John was her rock. Julie delighted in how Stuart had been the buddy whom her dad loved hanging out with. When Carl, for whom duty is central to his character, spent time helping her straighten things up at her home, Julie, although worried about being an imposition, cried because she knew he helped because of love and not because of duty. And Ell... Ell was the one with whom she was in the same grade throughout grade school and high school. He was her champion and protector. Julie always held close how Ell, even when he was a kid in grade school, stood up to a bully on the school bus who was being mean to her. When Julie was not able to speak in the hospital, she answered John’s question about what we could get her by holding up her hand and forming the letters e L L.

Julie recognized and reacted to her each of her cousins’ presence as she failing. She opened her eyes and squeezed the hands of each cousin as they approached her hospital bed. When Noel and her husband, Ed, rushed to the hospital, Julie grabbed their hands and laid Noel’s hand to her heart.

Being a part of a family for Julie extended to being a part of a neighborhood. She lived in the same house in Dowden Terrace until she died. She could recount who lived where and when, back to the time when we were children. She did her best to keep connected when others moved away. A most wonderful stroke of luck occurred when Jim and Scott moved across the street from her. Jim and Scott became two of her closest friends. Our family came to appreciate them, too, because we knew they were looking out for her and always had her best interests at heart.

The education of children became the purpose of Julie’s life.

As a young woman, Julie followed her mother’s footsteps by becoming a member of the Philanthropic Educational Organization. They were drawn to PEO’s focus on providing educational opportunities for the advancement of women. I think, too, with both of them having been an only child, they were drawn to the sisterhood of the PEO.

After graduating from high school, Julie obtained a Bachelor degree in Education from Marymount University. She then went to work as an educator for Fairfax County Public Schools. Julie was an educator for 41 years. There are hundreds of children whose lives were enriched by Julie’s commitment to providing a world class education for them.

Likewise, Julie’s life was enriched by her students, especially children with disabilities in whom she found inspiration and courage, and by her colleagues, who surprised her with a wonderful retirement party last summer.

There is a book by Kevin Brockmeier entitled *The Brief History of the Dead*, which posits that we are not entirely gone from this world until the last person who remembers us dies. Given the number of people who know Julie – the many students whose lives she touched over the course of 41 years, her fellow educators, her sisterhood, her neighbors and family - Julie will be with us for a long, long time.

## Julie Ann Kiley Distribution to Saint Anthony's

Request by the surviving family of Julie Ann Kiley.

1. One-third for a Peace Garden fund to support the Peace Garden with a plaque in Julie's name.
2. One-third for the "Julie Ann Kiley Peace Garden Special Faith Formation Program" (e.g., SPRED - Special Religious Development) to support the faith formation of students with developmental disabilities and other challenges.
3. One-third for the Julie Ann Kiley Peace Garden Initiative to support the Culmore Medical Clinic. ( With hope that an examination room to be named after "Julie Ann Kiley Peace Garden Room" in recognition St. Anthony's Church support of the clinic that serves the parish population in desperate need of basic medical assistance.

## Peace Garden Plaque

**Julie Ann Kiley**

November 4, 1952 - February 25, 2017

Forever faithful to her Church.  
Beloved by family, friends and her students.